

The
ARRIVAL



SHAUN TAN





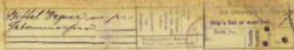
For my parents



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INSPECTION

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man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new
country, where he must build a new life for himself
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* THE ARRIVAL *



Shaun Tan



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I

















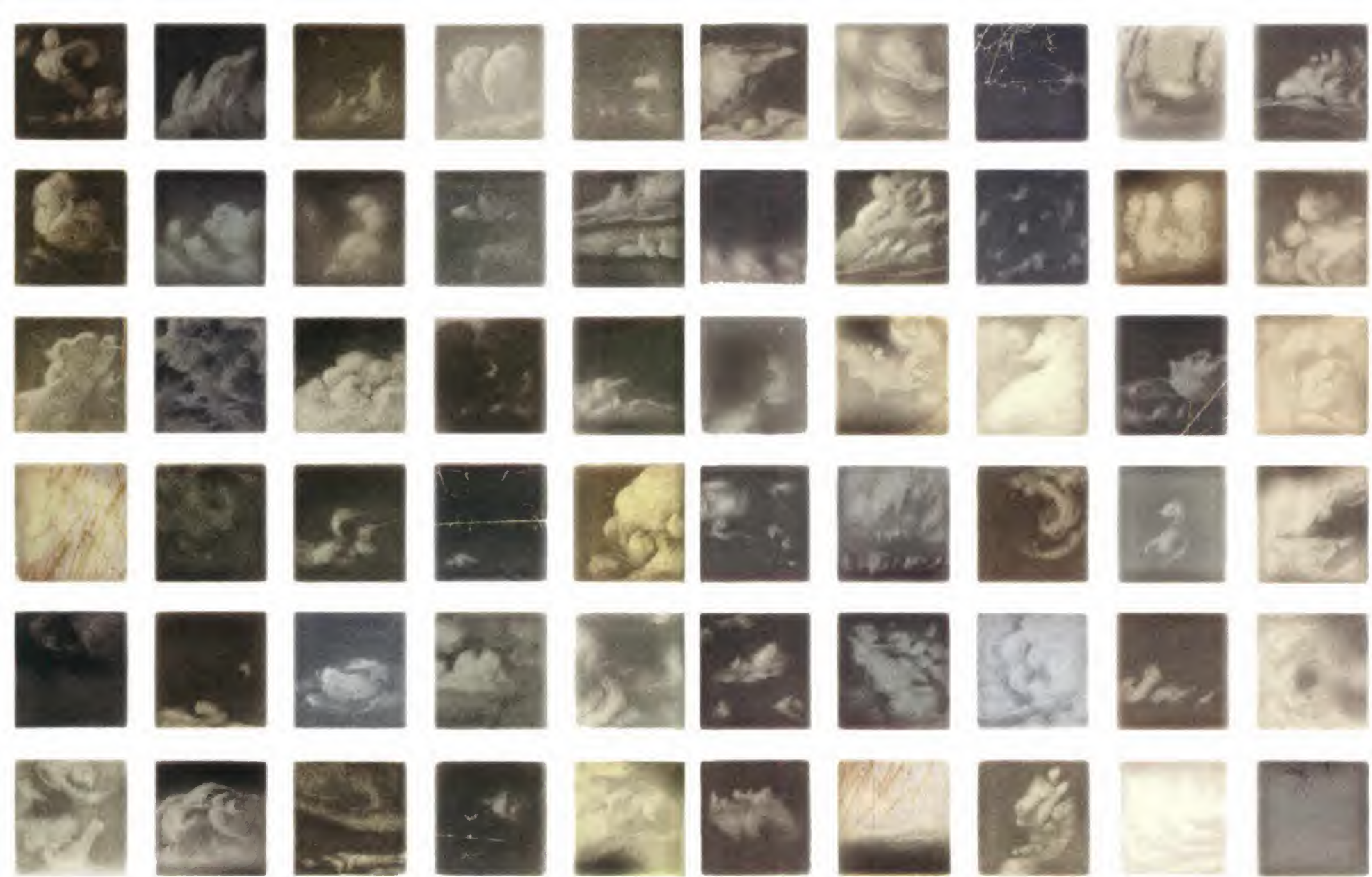


II





























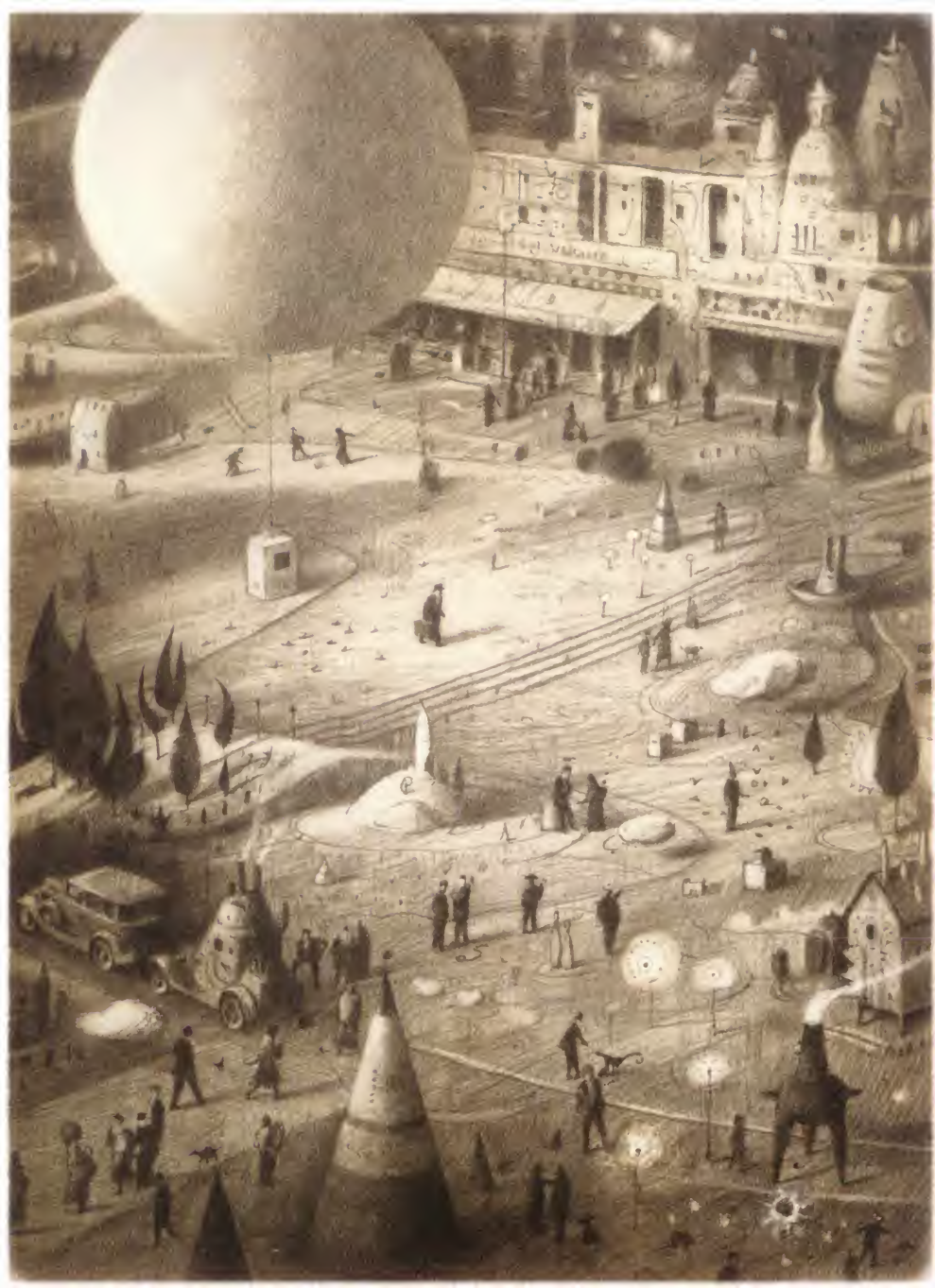












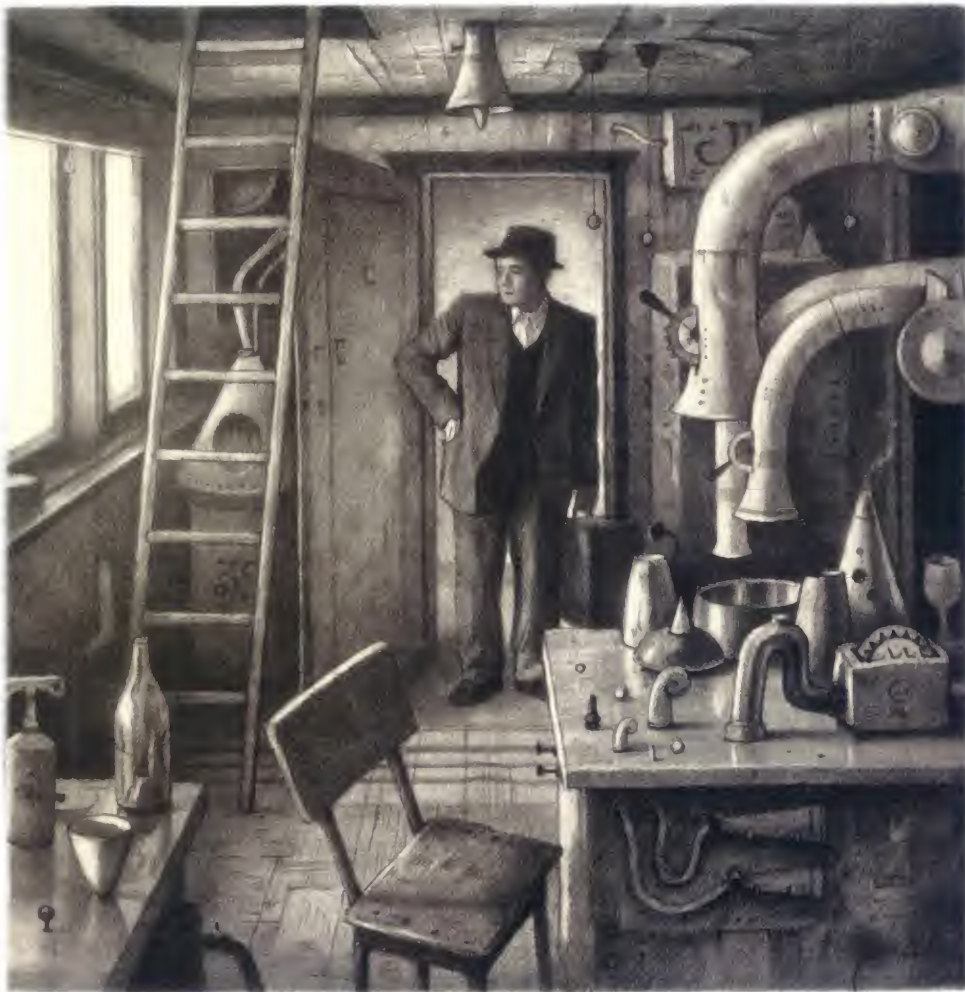










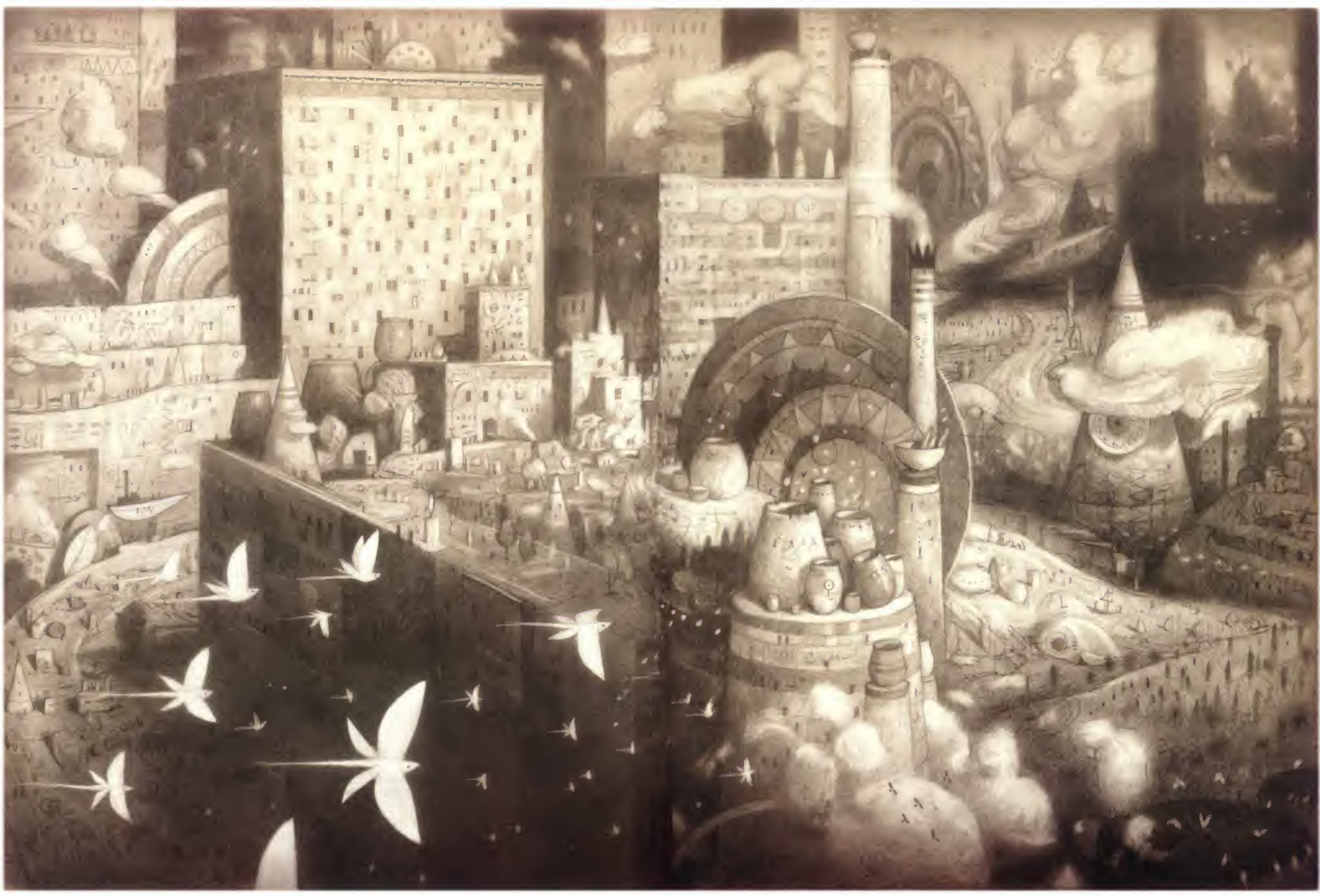












III



























































IV.









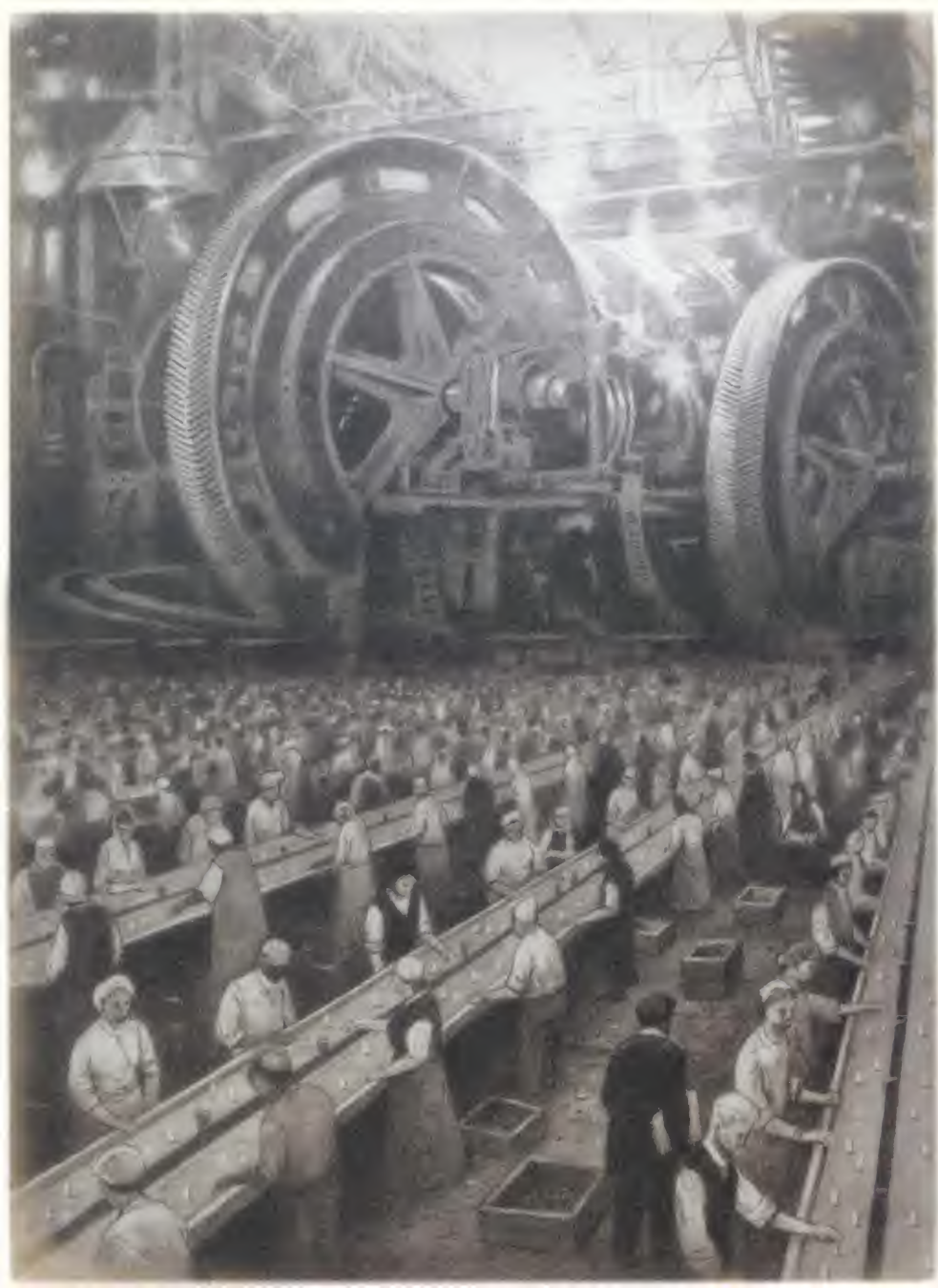




























































VI















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Renaissance

ARTIST'S NOTE

I am grateful to the following people for their assistance during the four years of research, development, and drawing that went into this book: my parents Bing and Christine Tan, Paul Tan, Helen Chamberlin, Sophie Byrne, Amanda Verschuren, Susan Marie, Rachel Marie, Simon Clarke, Deanna Cooney, Sophia Witte and Sarah Weaving, Zacharie Evers, Philip Evers and Kirsten Schweder, David Yeates and Kathryn Robinson, Karen Kennedy and the Bold Park Community School, Jeremy Reston, Nick Stathopoulos, the Ruffo family, everyone at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, Christobel Bennett at Subiaco Museum, Will Lauria, Peter Lothian, Tina Denham, Anna Dalziel and all the staff at Lothian Books for their ongoing faith — and patience! My greatest appreciation goes of course to my partner, Inari Kiuru, for all her support, advice, and encouragement. Special thanks go to Diego the parrot for inspiring most of the creatures in this book.

Thanks also to the Australia Council, The State Library of Western Australia, Inglewood Public Library, the Town of Vincent Public Library, and the National Maritime Museum in Sydney. Much of this book was inspired by anecdotal stories told by migrants of many different countries and historical periods, including my father who came to Western Australia from Malaysia in 1960. Two important references were *The Immigrants* by Wendy Lowenstein and Morag Loh (Hyland House 1977), and *Tales from a Suitcase* by Will Davies and Andrea Dal Bosco (Lothian Books 2001) — many thanks to all those who described their journeys and impressions in these books. The drawing of migrants on a ship pays homage to a painting by Tom Roberts, *Going South*, 1886, at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Other visual references and inspirations include a 1912 photograph of a newsboy announcing the *Titanic* sinking, picture postcards of New York from the turn of the century, photographs of street scenes from post-war Europe, Vittorio De Sica's 1948 film *The Bicycle Thief*, and Gustave Doré's engraving *Over London by Rail* circa 1870. Several drawings of immigrant processing, passport pictures, and the "arrival hall" are based on photographs taken at Ellis Island, New York, from 1892 to 1954, many of which can be found in the collection of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. For further comment, please visit www.shauntan.net





"Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* arrives just in time to take advantage of the current waves of interest in the 'graphic novel' and brings something new and exceptionally worthy to the form: a novel told in graphics (not cartoons), a wordless story that uses the language of silent cinema and the picture-story traditions that predate comic books. For adults, Tan's New World offers a childlike sense of discovery; for children it offers an adult theme made eminently accessible. Tan's lovingly laid out and masterfully rendered tale about the immigrant experience is a documentary magically told by way of Surrealism."

— Art Spiegelman, author of *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*

"*The Arrival* is an absolute wonder. It's not often you see art of this quality, or a book that's so brave."

— Marjane Satrapi, author of *Persepolis*

"Shaun Tan delivers a shockingly imaginative graphic novel that captures the sense of adventure and wonder that surrounds a new arrival on the shores of a shining new city. Wordless, but with perfect narrative flow, Tan gives us a story filled with cityscapes worthy of Winsor McCay. *The Arrival* is one of the best graphic novels of the year!"

— Jeff Smith, author of *Bone*

"Shaun Tan's artwork creates a fantastical, hauntingly familiar atmosphere. A strange, moving, and beautiful story."

— Jon J Muth, author of *Zen Shorts* and illustrator of *Sandman*

"*The Arrival* is beautiful. I loved how it slowly dawned on me that this bizarre world was how any immigrant might see the new place they go... everything is different and scary and magical. The drawings are just so lovely, endlessly detailed and wonderfully strange. Bravo."

— Brian Selznick, author of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

"*The Arrival* is perfectly infused with fantastical/surrealistic imagery to capture the wonder and confusion of the immigrant experience. A magical river of strangers and their stories!"

— Craig Thompson, author of *Blankets*

"Anyone who thinks that the graphic novel is no more than a flash-in-the-pan phenomenon, ought to take a look at *The Arrival*. This magnificent work not only establishes itself in a major new literary genre but raises the stakes for anyone seriously considering working in it. Born of dreams and history, it is a story that seems to have been living in the depths of our unconscious; Shaun Tan reached deep down and brought it into the light."

— David Small, Caldecott Medalist for *So You Want to Be President?*

